



MNPD NEWSLINE

THE OFFICIAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER OF THE MNPD

September 7, 2007

News from the Chief

The police department's next round of promotional testing will take place on December 6, when qualified police officers who want to become sergeants will take a written exam at the Municipal Auditorium. Performance on the written test will advance a minimum of 100 candidates to the Assessment Center, which will be scheduled during the second half of January.

More than 80 officers who were not eligible to participate in the last sergeants exam because they had less than four years on the job will be eligible to participate this time around. A total of approximately 675 officers are qualified to take the test. As a reminder, all officers who intend to participate in the sergeant promotional process must submit an application to Metro Human Resources by the close of business October 4. The existing sergeant promotional register will remain active until at least January 8, 2008.

On the recruiting front, 16 persons have been hired and an additional 48 have been extended conditional offers of employment for Session 56, which will begin in October. Our background investigators are presently reviewing the files of well over 100 potential candidates for Session 57, which will begin in February. Lt. Michele Donegan and her recruiting staff are working very hard to help fill vacancies. I am grateful for the dedication and efforts of the Background & Recruitment Unit.

Thank you very much to all of our dedicated officers and professional support staff for your continuing outstanding work and commitment to Nashville's families and their safety.

Happenings

Chief Ronal Serpas announced the promotion of two officers to the rank of sergeant.

Danny Schager, 41, a 12-year police department veteran who formerly served on the Central Precinct's afternoon Flex Unit, will now be a supervisor on the North Precinct's afternoon shift.

Robert Nielsen, 33, an eight-year police department veteran who formerly served on the North Precinct's afternoon shift, will now be a supervisor on the South Precinct's afternoon shift.



Pictured (l-r) are Sergeant Danny Schager, Chief Serpas, and Sergeant Robert Nielsen

Officers of the Month: May, June, and July



Pictured (l-r) are Officer Ronnie Brock, Det. Stephen Ray, Chief Serpas, Officer Cindy Huffines, Officer Walter Gray, Officer Cedric Connolly, Det. Jason Rosalia, Officer Tiffany Rhea, Det. Leonard Peck, Officer Michael Lawson, Officer Herb Kajihara, Det. Pat Postiglione, Det. Lee Freeman, Det. Mark Anderson, Officer James Curtis, Officer Doug Williams, Det. Mike Roland, and Deputy Chief Bishop.

Training



Sessions 54 and 55 compete against each other in team-building PT events. Session 54 will graduate Thursday, September 13 at 6:00 PM at Madison Church of Christ.



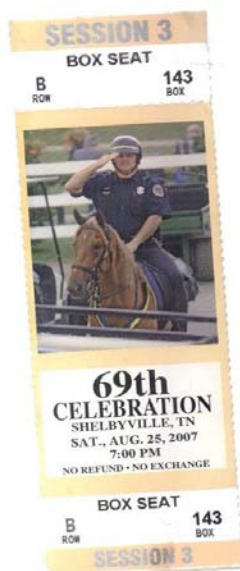
Construction continues on the tower replacement on the gun range.

Retirees Lt. Aubrey Turner and Det. Cordelia Maxwell are recognized for their 30 plus years of service to the department.



Pictured (l-r) Lt. Aubry Turner, Deputy Chief Bishop, Det. Cordelia Maxwell, and Chief Serpas

Central Precinct Officer Mark Stockdale was pictured on admission tickets to the 2007 Tennessee Walking Horse Celebration.



On August 14 members of the Metropolitan Police Department's Citizen Police Academy graduated after completing a twelve-week course that began May 29.

Participants learned about the intricacies of police work through the perspective of a variety of guest speakers, including members of the police department's various specialized components.



Graduates of the Citizens Police Academy Session 20 with Chief Serpas, Mayor Purcell, and Michelle Crowder.

Central Precinct Officer Wes Henderson won a national motorcycle competition last month.

The 2007 Motorcops.com National Training and Skills Championship held in Frisco, Texas, drew law enforcement officers from around the nation.

Officer Henderson placed first in "Overall Individual Rider" and "Harley Electra Glide".



Pictured (l-r) are: Chief Serpas, Officer Wes Henderson, and Central Precinct Commander Andy Garrett.

The Precinct News

Hermitage

Officer Andrew Vallee received a call concerning drug activity inside an apartment on Hickory Hill Lane. Detecting a strong odor of marijuana in the hallway, Officer Vallee knocked on the door and was given permission to enter the residence. Seized in a consent search were 132 grams of marijuana, scales, and drug paraphernalia. Three persons were arrested and charged with felony drug possession.

Officer Jacob Pilarski and Sergeants Keith Stephens and Daniel Newbern served outstanding petitions to a juvenile charged with two counts of aggravated assault, one count of especially aggravated rape, and one count of attempted aggravated rape.

Officers were allowed inside the residence and were able to locate the juvenile hiding under a pile of clothes. Officer Pilarski did an excellent job in researching and locating a dangerous repeat juvenile offender.

South

Officers interviewed four occupants of a car parked near the scene of a reported fight. A 15-year-old backseat passenger was placed into custody for violating curfew.

It was discovered at booking that he is currently bound over as an adult on criminal homicide charges and weapons violations from a 2006 case.

Outstanding police work by South Precinct Flex officers led to the arrest of a bank robber minutes after the hold-up.

Frank Dixon, 47, has admitted to the robbery and is charged federally by the FBI's Violent Crimes Task Force.

Dixon took a cab to Bank of America's 5801 Nolensville Pike branch. He entered the bank at 1:30 p.m., passed a teller a robbery demand note, and received a significant sum of cash. Dixon left the bank, got back into the cab, and rode to the Kroger store across the street. Dixon purchased a shirt and hat at Kroger, went into the store's restroom, and changed clothes.

South Flex Officers Kimberly McCarthy, John Pryor, William Traughber, and Christopher Lake responded to the robbery call and were told that the suspect had gone to the grocery store. The officers entered Kroger, saw Dixon coming out of the restroom, noticed that he matched the physical description of the robber, and took him into custody. Clothing believed to have been worn during the hold-up was found in a restroom trash can. The money taken from the bank was recovered.

An early morning traffic stop on Haywood Lane near Apache Trail led to the arrest of two juveniles who were in a stolen car. A loaded handgun with a filed off serial number was also recovered.

East

Officer James King stopped a car for an equipment violation and detected an odor of marijuana. Seized during a probable cause search were 5.9 grams of marijuana and a loaded handgun. The driver was charged with unlawful weapon and drug possession.

Another pistol was taken off the streets and out of the hands of a convicted felon when Officer Shane Fairbanks stopped the driver of a car for running a stop sign.

The passenger fled on foot but was apprehended at a nearby residence.

A loaded handgun was located in plain view on the floorboard where the passenger had been sitting. He admitted the gun was his and was charged with felon in possession of a handgun and evading arrest.

A convicted cocaine dealer, he was also served with two outstanding warrants.

North

Officers caught two suspects, including a convicted felon, after they bailed from a car and fled on foot. Officer Michael Waltz attempted to pull the driver over because the registered owner had a warrant on file.

The driver, a convicted felon, admitted a loaded handgun found behind an apartment building was his weapon.

Officers responded to a condominium complex in response to a large, loud group of people standing in the parking lot.

During a subsequent investigation marijuana and a loaded pistol-grip 12-gauge shotgun were found in a nearby car. Two persons were arrested.

West

Officers investigating a drug complaint at an apartment on Watts Circle could see drug paraphernalia in plain view and obtained a search warrant. Seized were three ounces of marijuana, drug paraphernalia, and six marijuana plants.

Officer Anthony Jackson stopped a Blazer because the tag was not visible. As he approached the SUV, he detected a strong odor of marijuana. Seized in a subsequent search of the vehicle were 57.5 grams of marijuana. The driver was charged with felony marijuana possession. The Blazer was also seized.

Central

A business on Cowan Street had \$6,000 dollars worth of metal stolen. Two suspects were developed after Officer Kevin Caperton reviewed video from a security camera.

Officers Caperton and James Malone located the suspects at PSC metals attempting to sell the stolen materials.

An outstanding coordinated effort between all units led to the creation of a safe perimeter around the massive fire downtown Wednesday night that destroyed a vacant warehouse in the 400 block of 5th Avenue South.

Sex Crimes Unit

More than four months of investigation by Sex Crimes detectives resulted in the arrest of a 14-year-old for raping one woman and trying to rape another in East Nashville on April 21.

Santéz Bradford, a student at Johnson Alternative Center, is charged with aggravated rape, attempted aggravated rape, and two counts of unlawful gun possession. Hermitage Precinct officers arrested Bradford as he hid under a pile of clothes inside his Claiborne Street home.

Domestic Violence

Congratulations to Domestic Violence Division Captain Rita Baker and Crisis Counseling Supervisor Carol Gipson who have been awarded scholarships to attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) National Trainer Development Program on Violence Against Women. Their Department of Justice scholarships will cover all expenses related to the four-day program, which will be held next February in Charleston, South Carolina.

“Captain Baker and Dr. Gipson are deeply committed to assisting women victimized by abusive relationships,” Chief Ronal Serpas said. “I am very proud of them and their tremendous work in leading our Domestic Violence Division.”

Condolences:

Chelsea Wynn, 13, daughter of Aaron and Patricia Wynn, ECC Supervisor, passed away after a lengthy illness.

Flora Lee Gunter, aunt of Sergeant Freddie Stromatt, West Precinct, and sister of retired Lieutenants Freddie and Leon Stromatt, passed away recently.

Steve Acton, brother of Officer John Cumberland, Central Precinct, passed away recently.

Loriece Morris, father of Officer Roy Morris, West Precinct, passed away September 3.

Jack Hull, father of Officer Scott Hull, West Precinct, passed away September 4.

Mary Louise Lewis, grandmother of Rhonda Hagar, Central Precinct, passed away September 5.

The father of Hernan Andrade, ITS, passed away September 5.

Sergeant Bobby Coggins, retired 1981, passed away September 5.

FYI:

As Officer Danita Marsh continues to recover from her gunshot wounds, the 100 Club of Nashville has committed to help her regain some of life's basic choices by financing the purchase of accessible housing and a specially equipped vehicle. Persons wanting to make a tax deductible contribution to assist Officer Marsh are urged to make checks payable to the 100 Club of Nashville and include the Marsh name on the memo portion. One hundred percent of the money donated will go to the Marsh fund. Checks can be mailed to The Hundred Club of Nashville, P.O. Box 190428, Nashville, Tennessee, 37219-0428.

Donations of clothes and money are being accepted for Capitol Police Officer Jeff Simpson, his wife Rhonda, and their six children following a house fire.

If you would like to donate you can call Capitol Police Sergeant Pete Wilson and he will make arrangements to pick up the items and deliver them to the Simpson family:

792-0360 home

417-2767 cell

741-2138 work

Clothing Sizes:

Jeff - shirt XL, pants 42x34, shoe 9 ½ wide

Rhonda - shirt L, pants/shorts size 7, shoe 8

Children

Matthew (13 months) - 6-9 month & diapers

Caleb (2 years) - 2-3T, shoe 9

Jessica (5 years) - 6x pants, shoe 12

Jeffrey (9 years) - shirt 8-10, pants 10 slim, shoe 3

Jacob (15 years) - shirt adult medium, pants 30x30, shoe 9

Thomas (16 years) - shirt adult medium, pants 32x32, shoe 11

Donations will be picked up by Sgt. Wilson